

July and August, and it was known that tobacco was extremely sensible to changes of temperature, and of the weather; and, under these circumstances, as an article of commerce, it lost much of its value, suffering in flavour and quality, and failing to command the price which it would otherwise secure. Owing to these considerations, the argument of his hon. friend lost much of its force. The object of the motion was to encourage the cultivation of tobacco in Canada, though of all the plants that Lower Canada could cultivate, the last thing which they should cultivate was tobacco, which could not become for them an article of export. They could cultivate grains such as oats and barley, and other cereals, but even wheat was not always successfully raised in the Province of Quebec. Its success was uncertain, and so much was this the case, that their farmers as a rule dare not raise wheat any more. It was not adapted to their soil. Each soil was specially adapted to the growth of certain things; climates varied. In the Province of Quebec wheat was not now generally raised, though there was a time when it was grown there to a considerable extent; but for reasons into which it was not necessary to enter, the fact was, that the Province of Quebec could not now raise enough wheat for its own consumption, and it was obliged to import grain from the Province of Ontario and the United States. The same thing was true with regard to the cultivation of tobacco. The growth of tobacco could never be successful with them, for the simple reason that the climatic conditions of this Province were not favourable to it. Tobacco came up very well, and the soil was good enough, but the plant did not reach maturity. Our seasons were too short for the growth of this article. Tobacco could not always come to maturity; some years this might be the case, no doubt, and it was also true that during certain years, wheat did very well in the Province of Quebec. Last year, for instance, wheat with them was an excellent crop, but at the same time they could not depend upon wheat as a steady crop, and in the same way tobacco could not be de-

pendent on each year to come to maturity; and even when it came to maturity, the fact was incontestible, that it did not reach the highest state of perfection, as was also the case in parts of the American Union. But suppose that they did encourage the cultivation of tobacco in Canada, and suppose they did abolish this Excise duty, the result would be that each farmer would, perhaps, raise so much tobacco as he would use, and suppose that this tobacco would have the same value as the American tobacco, it was impossible to pretend that an inferior article would always command, in the same market, the price that was asked for the imported article. And even if the principle in question was carried into effect, the consequence would be that after a certain number of years, the cultivation of this article in this country would fall off; it would not be profitable to the farmers, and they, themselves, would abandon it. And more than this, as the hon. member for Beauce had stated, if there was an article which ought to be taxed, it was tobacco. No one could to-day, in a civilized country, pretend that tobacco ought to be exempt from taxation, and it was, above all, an article on which, by every Government, revenue ought to be raised. At the present time there was no civilized country which would venture to remove this Excise duty and make tobacco free from duty. Spirits and tobacco were always articles on which all civilized Governments raised a part of their ordinary revenue. The hon. gentleman recognized this fact, and he did not say that tobacco ought to be exempt from duty; but if he rightly understood him, the hon. gentleman held that the duty should be simply limited to the imported article. But suppose that this motion were adopted, and that the moment it was adopted, the Government should remove the Excise duty from Canadian tobacco and impose it merely on imported tobacco, what would be the consequence? Either the revenue from this source would be reduced considerably, owing to the increased use of Canadian tobacco, or this tobacco would enter into exclusive use, and thus prevent the importation